

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-04 L-03 SIL-01

LAB-04 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /062 W

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R 242255Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7071

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, UR, CA, FR

SUBJECT: CANADIAN CLOSURE OF ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET FISHING
FLEET

REF: HALIFAX 271 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS QUESTIONS IN COMMONS ON
JULY 23 REGARDING SUBJECT ACTION, FISHERIES MINISTER
LEBLANC, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOVIET FISHING
FLEET IN LAST ANALYSIS COULD MANAGE WITHOUT ACCESS
TO CANADIAN PORTS, NEVERTHELESS MADE POINT THAT 400
VISITS TO CANADIAN PORTS IN 1974 AND THE LEVEL OF
PURCHASES MADE IN THOSE PORTS (NO DOLLAR VALUE
PROVIDED) INDICATE THAT FLEET WILL FIND "CONSIDERABLE
INCONVENIENCE."

2. ON QUESTION OF WHETHER SOVIET FLEET MIGHT SIMPLY
SWITCH UTILIZATION TO FRENCH ISLANDS OF ST. PEIRRE
AND MIQUELON, LEBLANC STATED "WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE. THEY HAVE MADE A
STATEMENT, REPORTED IN THE PRESS SOME WEEKS AGO,
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TO THE EFFECT THAT IN NO WAY COULD THEY INCREASE

THEIR FACILITIES TO PROVIDE WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM
CANADIAN PORTS BY FOREIGN FLEETS."

3. AT SAME SESSION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS, MOTION
UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED "THAT THIS HOUSE SUPPORTS THE
GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM
ICNAF FOR A 40 PERCENT REDUCTION IN QUOTAS WHICH
IS VITAL TO THE VIABILITY OF CANADA'S EAST COAST
FISHING INDUSTRY."

4. MEANWHILE, REACTIONS TO GOC DECISION
CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED. OTTAWA CITIZEN IN JULY 24
EDITORIAL SAID "SOLUTION LIES PARTLY IN THE EXTENSION
OF CANADA'S CONTROL OF FISHING TO THE 200-MILE LIMIT"
BUT URGES NEXT YEAR'S LOS CONFERENCE BE GIVEN ONE LAST
CHANCE BEFORE TAKING SUCH ACTION. SOUTHAM NEW COLUMNIST
CHARLES LYNCH IN JULY 24 COLUMN POINTS OUT CANADIAN
MILITARY LACK CAPABILITY TO ENFORCE ANY STRONGER DECISIONS.
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ARE GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO CONTINUING
DISSATISFACTION ON THE PART OF MARITIME PROVINCES.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING BOATS, PORT FACILITIES, COSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA02787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750257-0679
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawom.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OFA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HALIFAX 271
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN CLOSURE OF ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET FISHING FLEET
TAGS: EFIS, UR, CA, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006